

Message Text

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10/17

ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5882

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSYHPARIS

USMISSION USBERLIN

USNMR SHAPE

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

USLO SACLANT

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01205

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1. LINE 6)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, NATO, PARM, GW

SUBJECT: CSCE/CBM'S: FRG MAINTAINING POLICY ON
OBSERVER INVITATION MODALITIES

1. THE FRG IS PRESENTLY MAINTAINING ITS POLICY THAT
CSCE OBSERVER INVITATIONS FOR EXERCISES CONDUCTED IN THE
FRG SHOULD BE LIMITED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF MISSIONS
ACCREDITED IN BONN. THIS POLICY WAS RECONFIRMED ON
JANUARY 22 BY DR. RUTH, THE FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL
RESPONSIBLE FOR CBM POLICY. IN AN INFORMAL CONVER-
SATION WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER, RUTH STATED THAT MUCH
THOUGHT HAD GONE INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORIGINAL
FRG POSITION OF INVITING OBSERVERS TO EXERCISE REFORGER
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LAST FALL. RUTH SAID HE PERCEIVED NO NEED TO RECOMMEND

A CHANGE IN POLICY TO HIS SUPERIORS, EVEN IN VIEW OF THE MODALITIES ADOPTED BY THE SOVIETS IN INVITING OBSERVERS BOTH FROM MISSIONS IN MOSCOW AS WELL AS CAPITALS.

2. RUTH EXPLAINED THAT THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IN ALTERING THE POLICY IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE GDR. RUTH SAID A DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONTROVERSY WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY ARISE IF THE FRG WERE TO INVITE OBSERVERS FROM EAST BERLIN TO VIEW MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE FRG.

3. RUTH INDICATED THAT THE FRG WOULD PROBABLY EXCHANGE MILITARY ATTACHES WITH SEVERAL EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THIS YEAR, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW THE EXACT STATUS OF THE PROPOSED EXCHANGES. HE SAID HE WOULD CHECK WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTRY AND ADVISE US LATER. RUTH CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRG HAD NO INTENTION OF EXCHANGING ATTACHES WITH THE GDR.

4. COMMENT: IT SEEMS LIKELY TO US THAT THE FRG WILL TRY TO MAINTAIN ITS CURRENT POLICY ON OBSERVER INVITATION MODALITIES THIS YEAR. AS THE OCTOBER 3 NATIONAL ELECTION APPROACHES, THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROBABLY BE RELUCTANT TO ADOPT A MORE LIBERAL POLICY VIS-A-VIS WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES IN VIEW OF THE ATTACKS WHICH THE CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION COULD BE EXPECTED TO MAKE AGAINST SUCH A POLICY.

WE SUSPECT THAT AN OVERWHELMING CONSENSUS AMONG THE ALLIES IN FAVOR OF EXTENDING INVITATIONS TO OBSERVERS FROM CAPITALS WILL HAVE TO DEVELOP IN BRUSSELS IN ORDER TO CONVINCE THE FRG TO CHANGE ITS POLICY. EVEN SHOULD SUCH A CONSENSUS DEVELOP AND THE FRG BECOME ISOLATED, THE GERMANS MAY REMAIN FIRM ABOUT NOT INVITING OBSERVERS FROM CAPITALS FOR EXERCISES ON THEIR TERRITORY BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GDR.
END COMMENT.
HILLENBRAND

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